

## Amusements, etc., This Evening.

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OLYMPIC THEATRE:—"Schneider."  
WALLACK'S THEATRE:—"Ellie."  
WOOD'S MUSEUM:—"At 2 and at 8." "David Garrick."  
CENTRAL PARK GARDEN:—Concert. Theodore  
Tilman.  
TERRACE GARDEN:—Julien's Concert.

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the paper sent by mail to their temporary residences in  
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Advertisements for this week's issue of THE  
Weekly Tribune must be handed in 70 days. Price \$2 per line.

## New-York Daily Tribune.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 1871.

The royal visitors left Dublin yesterday; the streets  
were lined with spectators, but there was no cheering.  
A conflict between the Prussians and the French  
has occurred at Poligny, 20 of the latter being wounded.  
War steamers are getting ready for sea, in view of a  
complication on the Black Sea question. The trial of the  
Communists has begun.

The election returns from Kentucky show heavy  
Republican gains. — There are no further returns from  
North Carolina. — Two men have been killed in St.  
Louis by a boiler explosion. — A terrible hail storm  
has destroyed the crops in a portion of Wisconsin. —  
The murderer Messner will be hanged in Rochester on  
Friday. — Two men were injured at Cohoes by a pre-  
mature discharge while blasting.

The Government inspectors resumed the Westfield  
investigation. Another victim has died in Brooklyn. —  
Charles Brunner was stabbed in front of his house by  
two rascals. — The Twelfth and Twentieth Ward  
Citizens' Associations denounced the City Government.  
— Gold, 112, 112½. Thermometer, 74, 87, 74.

The disturbances in Dublin were more serious  
than the first reports led us to believe; and in the midst of them the royal party left  
the city, the angry people refusing them a  
cheer. By this time it must be apparent to the  
royal family that the disaffection of Ireland  
is intense, and not easily pacified. The heir  
apparent probably leaves Dublin with the im-  
pression that one part of his heritage is cer-  
tainly uncertain property.

The unfortunate difficulty between the Sec-  
retary of the Treasury and the Commissioner  
of Internal Revenue is now reported to have  
reached a crisis. The Secretary says he must  
resign if the Commissioner is not removed.  
This complication grew out of a conflict of  
authority between the two officers. It  
has long been certain that neither would recede,  
and it was evident at the very beginning that  
the situation could not last. It is his  
time that the President interfered to end  
such a state of affairs;—indeed it is a pity  
that he did not do it long ago, and so relieve  
the public service from the disgrace of this  
undignified dispute.

American yachtsmen have already, probably,  
won the race for the Queen's cup, in anticipa-  
tion. The Livonia, which was built for that  
race under Commodore Ashbury's supervision,  
has been beaten so badly by English yachts  
as to make necessary her withdrawal from  
the coming contest. The Cambria, which has  
been substituted for the Livonia, beat the  
Dauntless in the great ocean race last year,  
but was beaten by several American yachts  
in the subsequent contests here. As it has  
been reported that Mr. Ashbury had made  
the lines of the Livonia to conform some-  
what to American models, our yachtsmen will  
be ready to declare that our builders are  
neither to be equalled nor imitated.

While we are discussing the probable causes  
of the explosion of the Westfield boiler, we  
have from St. Louis an account of an explo-  
sion in that city which exactly illustrates the  
theory of "unequal expansion," of which we  
hear so much. The report says that steam  
was raised in a stationary boiler for the pur-  
pose of furnishing a small quantity for a don-  
key-engine. When a pressure of ninety pounds  
was attained, cold water was pumped into the  
boiler, and a fierce explosion ensued. This  
was just as much the result of unequal expan-  
sion, apparently, as the bursting of a hot glass  
tube on the application of a drop of cold water,  
or splitting open a heated glass tumbler by  
dropping cold water therein. It should be ob-  
served that this explosion was nearly as severe  
in its effects as that of the Westfield, though,  
fortunately, but few persons were killed.

It is either a good thing for the digestion  
to belong to the State Guard or a capital thing  
for the pocket to be catered to by the regiments,  
on parade and riot days. Either the militia  
are inordinate eaters or their sutlers are the  
boldest of chancers. The Supervisors of Tam-  
many yesterday received and examined the  
bills of the several restaurant keepers who  
furnished refreshments to the regiments on  
July 13, and some of them are curious enough  
when examined in detail. The gallant and  
aristocratic 7th managed to feed at an expense  
to the city of \$1 50 a man, which would cer-  
tainly have been a liberal allowance for rations  
if the regiment had been doing good and  
hard service in Virginia once more. But the  
96th, which it is well known did no fighting  
on the 12th, though it apparently did its full  
share of eating, cost \$2 50 for each man, officer,

and private. At the same time, the men of  
the 84th Regiment, on which the brunt of  
battle fell, managed to subsist on 11c. each  
for the day. Let us not be understood as re-  
flecting on the militia. They deserved all the  
food and praise and thanks they got that  
horrid day. We have instituted these curious  
comparisons solely for the suggestion they  
contain. It seems to us not a little singular  
that there should be such a difference in the  
cost of rations in the same part of the field of  
operations. Perhaps a close scrutiny of the  
details of the accounts may satisfy the Super-  
visors, but for ourselves we remain decidedly  
skeptical as to the correctness of some of these  
commissary returns.

Desperate Tammany is showing its hand in  
stirring up men of the baser sort to the dis-  
turbance of popular assemblages. A meeting  
of the citizens of the Twelfth and Nineteenth  
Wards, called to consider the great frauds  
alleged to have been committed on the City  
Treasury, was last night broken in upon by  
ruffians and bullies, who interrupted proceed-  
ings by cheers for Tammany and Tammany  
officials, groans, cat-calls, and ribald lan-  
guage. This is exactly what might be ex-  
pected of men who are engaged in hiding the  
public accounts and in smothering all inquiry  
into their acts. But these tactics will be un-  
availing, and the very attempt to break up  
such meetings is just as much a confession of  
weakness as the unexplained delay in fur-  
nishing Controller Connolly's accounts is an  
admission that they are not all right.

Kentucky yesterday voted for State officers  
and Legislature. The returns so far are very  
meager, affording no indication of the total  
vote in the State; but we have, so far, an en-  
couraging and unexpected report of large Re-  
publican gains, both in Louisville and in  
smaller towns. The canvass has been con-  
ducted on both sides with great vigor and  
ability, and, probably, a large vote has been  
polled. While it would be too much to hope  
for a Republican victory, we are confident that  
the old Democratic vote has been greatly cut  
down, and that the following ticket has been  
elected by largely reduced majorities:

Governor.....PRESTON H. LESLIE.  
Lieut.-Governor.....JOHN O. CARLISLE.  
Attorney-General.....JOHN RODMAN.  
Auditor.....D. HOWARD SMITH.  
Treasurer.....JAMES W. TATE.  
Superintendent Pub. Ins.....H. A. M. HENDERSON.  
Reg. of Land.....J. ALEXANDER GRANT.

## "WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?"

Up to this time, we have waited in daily  
expectation that the Controller's account of  
receipts and expenditures for the last thirty  
months would very soon be given to the public.  
We await and expect no longer. It is now  
clear that no genuine exhibit is to be made at  
all. The Mayor has assumed the responsibility  
of this, and thereby incriminated himself; but  
this by no means exculpates the Controller.  
The law plainly requires him to make an  
annual exhibit; he has made no exhibit at  
all of his payments for the thirty months  
commencing with 1869 and ending with the  
earlier half of 1871; and the fair in-  
ference is that he dare not make any—  
that his disbursements have been such that  
he prefers pleading guilty by withholding his  
accounts to displaying his guilt by publish-  
ing them.

Meantime, the public cannot fail to note  
that his new statement of the City and  
County Debts is inconsistent with that he  
made only two months ago, and more glaringly  
inconsistent with that which he induced  
Messrs. Moses Taylor, J. J. Astor, and others,  
to certify as correct last October. And each  
restatement makes the aggregate larger than  
its predecessor.

If an account shall by-and-by be published,  
it will be a blind—"windows to shut out the  
light," and passages that lead to nothing."  
We shall evidently have no report that tells  
us who has pocketed the City's money, how  
much has gone to each, and what the City has  
to show therefor. Millions have been paid out  
for work that was never done and goods that  
were never delivered; and those who are re-  
sponsible to the City in the premises—who  
were elected or appointed and heavily salaried  
expressly to take care that such robbery should  
not be perpetrated—will not even tell to whom  
they paid the money. They virtually say,  
"We will not print our accounts. We are  
"masters of the law, which we defy, and the  
"people, whom we rule but do not serve. If  
"you don't like this, help yourselves!"

This is the point which has now been  
reached. The exhibit, so long awaited, is not  
to be made; if there should be a show of  
making one, it will be no real exposé, but a  
blind.

What then?  
The promised City Meeting will soon be  
held. Though this is the season when most of  
our business men are taking their Summer va-  
cation, it will doubtless be most worthily  
offered and largely attended.

What then?  
We trust this meeting will consider and  
adopt practical measures. Merely resolving  
and denouncing, will amount to very little.  
They are but the smoke which predicts a fire.  
Those who are gorged with the City's treasure  
will only laugh at them.

Merely as our contribution to the aggregate  
of suggestions, we submit that suits should be  
brought for the recovery of the stolen money.  
If, as the Albany Argus virtually affirms, the  
money paid out by the Controller in satisfac-  
tion of the monstrous bills of Ingersoll & Co.,  
Garvey, &c., has in good part been used to  
buy votes in Senate and Assembly for the  
monstrous Tax-Levies, that money is still the  
property of the City and can be followed. No  
value has been received for it by the tax-  
payers. It should be sued for in their behalf,  
and recovered. No Court will say that they  
are not entitled to it.

Such suits will bring out all the facts. Let  
bribers and bribed, payers and payees, be  
alike subjected to the most searching examina-  
tion. If some of them shall swear falsely,  
others will not. They cannot succeed in  
hiding the truth.

This is one way. If there are others that  
promise good results, let them all be tried.  
But let all who have paid or received the pub-  
lic money be examined under oath, and made  
to tell what they know. There will be a  
shaking of the dry bones on one such trial  
concluded. Let us have the facts developed  
under the penalties of perjury; and a lesson  
will be taught that cannot soon be forgotten.

A negro jury in Buffalo is censured for  
acquitting two notorious colored prostitutes  
against whom the evidence of crime is said to  
have been clear. This is very unfortunate. If

it is true; but supposing the worst, is the  
Buffalo jury any more reprehensible than cer-  
tain white judges in New-York?

## THE BROOKLYN RING.

The City of Churches owes much of its  
prosperity to the fact that it is suburban to  
New-York. Its best dwelling-places and most  
healthy and eligible locations for homes are  
nearer the business part of the metropolis than  
nine-tenths of New-York's own residences are.  
Property is cheaper; taxes and rents are  
lighter; the means of transportation are ade-  
quate; and less obstructed than those of New-  
York; and altogether it is a most attractive  
place for people of quiet tastes and light  
purses. Its growth in consequence is very  
rapid, its population very largely on the in-  
crease annually, and its general prosperity  
highly encouraging to its property-owners and  
residents.

Perhaps all this should have been written in  
the past tense. There are those familiar with  
the city and interested in its welfare who  
think its prosperity at the flood, and who  
predict that a turn in the tide must follow  
unless the barriers to its further progress be  
at once removed. Our suburban neighbor is  
afflicted with a Democratic "Ring" which,  
like that of Tammany, eats away vantage  
like the substance of the city upon which it  
has settled. This organization has grown up  
there within two or three years past, against  
rigorous opposition of property-owners  
and the feigned resistance of officials who  
have since proved treacherous. It controls  
every department of the City Government  
except the Executive, which it has rendered  
almost powerless; and the Bench is its willing,  
active ally. Its control of the street-paving,  
opening, and widening, though without war-  
rant of law, is absolute; and the improvements  
made under its direction and contemplated by  
the Water Board, which is in reality the Ring  
itself, affect injuriously the value of all  
property.

Several of the principal frauds of this  
infamous clique are fully exposed in the  
elaborate article which we print in another  
column. A perusal of it will reveal that the  
"Ring" of the suburban city is certainly  
metropolitan in its frauds. The Clinton, Pierre-  
pont, and Union-st. pavement frauds are par-  
allel swindles to those of Fifth and Seventh-  
avenue. The proposed widening of Flatbush-ave-  
nue presents opportunities for fraudulent purchase  
of property and illegal and unjust assessments  
and allowances for property, equal to those  
developed in the exposed Broadway widening  
schemes. The members of the "Ring" have  
already secured for themselves the benefits to  
be derived from the widening, at the public  
expense, of Washington-st. The Bridge itself,  
necessary as its completion is to the prosper-  
ity of Brooklyn, is feared to be "a job,"  
involving as many millions of expenditure as  
the New-York Court-House.

These schemes, accomplished and projected,  
are not half told in the article we refer to,  
but enough is revealed to indicate the strong  
grasp which the "Ring" has upon Brooklyn.  
If she cannot, by a desperate effort, shake it  
off at once, it will lead her to the verge of  
bankruptcy as certainly as New-York has been  
dragged there by Tammany. Brooklyn has  
few of the resources of New-York; her re-  
spective powers are not nearly so great, and  
her extravagant "Ring" will ruin her irre-  
parably in a much shorter time than the de-  
spite one of New-York accomplished its  
financial discredit. It is doubly important,  
therefore, that her citizens should make a  
strong, united effort to throw off the yoke  
under which they labor. This can be done  
only by prompt and determined action, direct-  
ed by men of known energy and honesty, and  
the sooner these are enlisted in the reform the  
sooner the downfall of the "Ring" can be re-  
corded.

## THE OFFICIAL GROWTH OF THE DEBT.

The Debt of New-York is now reported by  
Controller Connolly to be \$100,055,333 33.  
Let us briefly trace our City's dreary decline  
and fall into this Slough of Despond, and see  
what encouragement our rate of getting in  
affords about the little matter of getting out.  
We have four official or semi-official land-  
marks along the route. On the 1st of  
January, 1869, we had an official re-  
port. On the 1st of November we had  
from Messrs. Taylor, Marshall O. Roberts, and  
others, a semi-official report at the request of  
the Controller, showing the debt on the  
5th of the previous October. On the 1st of  
May last the Controller made a report. And  
now we have for the 1st of August the first  
of the promised monthly reports, which, we  
may be sure, in no wise exaggerates our in-  
debtedness. See the acknowledged progress:

Jan. 1, 1869, City & County Debt, \$29,344,948 82  
Oct. 5, 1870, City & County Debt, 55,344,482 77  
May 1, 1871, City & County Debt, 81,825,337 57  
Aug. 1, 1871, City & County Debt, 100,055,333 33

In two and a half years, then, we have run  
in debt, under Messrs. Tweed, Connolly and  
Hall, \$71,630,384 51, or at the rate of  
\$28,652,153 80 per year, or \$2,875,679 48  
per month. Every year our taxes have been  
going up, yet every week Messrs. Tweed & Co.  
were running us in debt half a million dollars,  
on their own showing. If the concealed  
books hide anything worse than this, is it any  
wonder that Controller Connolly finds it so  
very difficult to finish that printing of the ac-  
counts which the Mayor two weeks ago as-  
sured us, was begun weeks before that?

## THE POLITICS OF LABOR.

"The National Labor Union" opened its fifth  
annual Convention at St. Louis yesterday. It  
is understood that this Convention will be  
devoted to the consideration of principles and  
measures, and that another will assemble at  
Columbus, Ohio, on the third Wednesday in  
October, charged with the selection of "Labor"  
candidates for President and Vice-President.  
Meantime, the following are set forth as the  
planks composing the "Labor" platform:

1. The rate of interest governs the distribution of products; hence, the present rates are the chief means of maintaining inequality of distribution.
2. A gold basis is a fallacy, invented by speculative capitalists.
3. A national paper currency, convertible into bonds bearing a rate of interest below the annual increase of wealth, and based on the national wealth, and receivable for all debts, public and private.
4. Abolition of the national banks.
5. Eight hours to be a day's labor.
6. Opposition to Chinese labor.
7. Money necessary for wars to be collected from the wealth of the country, and not funded into debts.

## Comments by The Tribune.

I. We may not correctly apprehend this  
proposition; but if it only means that a high  
rate of interest impedes the distribution of  
products, we can readily assent to it. But  
what then? One man has money which he  
may be induced to lend; twenty or thirty of  
his neighbors would like to borrow. Does not  
this excess of would-be borrowers naturally  
tend to enhance the rate of interest? Clearly  
yes, it seems plain to our mind. If, then, a  
lower rate of interest is desirable, must we not  
somehow enlarge the ability to lend or diminish

the desire to borrow? In other words, must we  
not, as a community, earn more and spend less?  
It seems to us that we must. If all are needy  
and none have ought to spare, the rate of  
interest must be high, as is shown in a poor  
agricultural region, where every one wants to  
borrow seed at the sowing season and pay for  
it after harvest. But our "Labor" economists  
seem to think that the State may lower the  
rate of interest by simply fabricating more  
money. We doubt it, because money seems to  
us only a go-between, and not the real  
object of general desire, which is food, shelter,  
clothing, seed, implements, &c., personified or  
represented by currency.

II. We think the "Labor" economists con-  
founded "a gold basis" with a circulating me-  
dium composed wholly of coin. This latter  
we deprecate, exactly as we would a law re-  
quiring every trader either to shut up shop or  
provide himself with yard-stick, steel-yards,  
bushel, gallon, quart and pint measures, of  
gold or silver. But a gold basis more nearly  
resembles a law requiring a set of standard  
weights and measures to be made and pre-  
served by the State, and all the weights and  
measures in actual use to be tested by and  
conformed to these; and to this we see no  
objection.

III. We do not object to the National Paper  
Currency proposed, but would want to be made  
very sure that those charged with the duty of  
issuing and redeeming or replacing it would  
have no chance to slip part of the product  
into their individual pockets.

IV. We do not see why the National Banks  
should be arbitrarily wound up; but their  
privileges of issuing notes which the Govern-  
ment treats as money is one which we hold  
liable to be resumed by the People whenever  
they can be more cheaply or satisfactorily  
served by any other agency. Yet we must say  
that these Banks have served the People well  
in giving them a uniform currency whereby  
they have lost little by counterfeiters and no-  
thing by bankruptcies; and we would not choose  
to dispense with the present Currency until  
well assured that the substitute would be an  
improvement.

V. We do not object to making eight hours  
the limit of a legal day's work, provided you  
do not abridge the liberty of those who choose  
to work ten or even twelve hours. We do ob-  
ject to any incitement or implication that  
eight hours' work ought to command the re-  
compense of ten or twelve hours' labor of like  
quality. And we hold that those who (like  
miners underground) work every day and at  
all seasons, regardless of temperature or tempest,  
ought to work fewer hours per day than those who  
(like farmers, railroad-graders, or house-build-  
ers) are stopped by falling rain or severe  
frost. The man who averages but five days  
work per week, and for but nine or ten months  
per annum, ought to work more hours per day  
than though he worked right on through all  
seasons and through each secular day.

VI. We cannot realize that Labor ought to  
organize "opposition to Chinese labor" or any  
other. On the contrary, we think it should  
encourage and stimulate labor of all kinds,  
on the homely principle that "Many hands  
"make light work." If our Labor Unionists  
want to do less work—and this seems a chief  
end of their efforts—they ought to permit and  
even incite others to do more. The dog in  
the manger was not a good political economist.

VII. We are utterly opposed to perpetuating  
National Debts, and insist on promptly pay-  
ing them. But a great and perilous crisis  
(like that through which France has just  
passed, for example) involves great efforts  
and great sacrifices, and these often involve  
great debts. Let them be paid off so soon as  
may be; but collecting a thousand millions at  
once from the people of a prostrate country  
is not so easy. The French Republic is bor-  
rowing the large sums the fortunes of war  
have compelled her to pay to Germany; and  
she could not easily do better.

—As to making the wealth of a country pay  
the entire cost of a war, it would not always  
be just. Suppose the poverty of that country  
insisted on making war in defiance of the  
wealth (a by no means unresponsive case)  
why should wealth foot the entire bill? Let  
Labor never forget to be honest and just.

## WHERE ARE THE SAVANS?

Thus far, the evidence elicited by the Board  
of Steamboat Inspectors has determined that  
the boiler of the ferry-boat Westfield was  
cracked—and that it was not cracked; that the  
iron was good—and that it was very bad;  
that the water was low—and that it wasn't  
low; that the engineer was neglecting his duty  
—and that he was giving usual and sufficient  
attention to his boiler; that the initial frac-  
ture at the moment of explosion occurred at a  
point opposite the lower range of flues, on the  
"port" side—and that it was at a point near  
the "man-hole" on top; that the steam was  
escaping through the safety-valve—and that it  
wasn't; that "gas" did it—and that "gas"  
didn't. On the other hand, there has been  
an absolute unanimity on the point that the  
explosion was caused by "over-pressure." That  
phrase, in this case, means anything or nothing.  
To us it looks like an ample admission that all  
these experts have failed to discover why the boiler  
exploded. "Over-pressure" is not a satisfactory  
explanation of this explosion, though it is ap-  
parently the only one which may now be  
expected from this Board of Inquiry. Surely  
the Inspectors do not mean now to call two  
or three more "old practical engineers," then  
close up their record, forward it to the  
Treasury Department, and leave the commu-  
nity as much in the dark as ever in regard to  
the causes of boiler explosions? To whom  
shall we look for such explanations, if not to  
the Inspectors themselves, who are sup-  
posed to have made the subject a special  
study, and to be ready to avail them-  
selves of information from the highest au-  
thorities? Thus far they have been at work  
simply on Coroner's business. It is well  
enough to learn, in advance of the Coroner,  
all the circumstances and conditions of the  
explosion; but when this is done they have  
but begun their task. Few of the old prac-  
tical engineers who have been called upon, as  
"experts," for opinions have, we venture to  
say, ever found time in their busy careers to  
look inside of scientific works, or to institute  
such various experiments as might alone teach  
them the nature of steam, the operation of  
the forces of cohesion, and of expansion and  
contraction.

Would it not be well for the Board to go a  
little beyond the range of the members' per-  
sonal acquaintances among "practical en-  
"gineers"—among those who from affiliations  
with steamboat companies, boiler makers, and  
others, may be subject to the imputation of  
interested motives—and draw out the opinions  
of scientific men of unquestioned standing in  
the community? These questions ought to be  
settled, and, we believe, can be settled:

1. Where was the point of initial fracture of the boiler?

2. What was the direction of the force exerted?

3. Was there a cooler stratum of water beneath the  
lower range of flues? and, if such was the case, was the  
unequal expansion thus produced sufficient to burst the  
boiler?

4. If the iron was perfectly sound, has it seems to have  
been shown by its resisting a great hydrostatic pressure  
a short time previously, were the safety-valve and the  
locked Government valve both insufficient to answer the  
purposes for which they were intended with reference to  
sudden increase of pressure of steam?

## A COMMITTEE ON THE ACCOUNTS.

It is reported that the Chamber of Com-  
merce will probably decline the invitation of  
Messrs. Hall and Connolly to constitute them-  
selves a Committee of Inquiry into the finances  
of the Corporation. This is perfectly natural.  
Mr. Connolly obtained a complimentary notice  
a year ago from three well-known merchant  
princes, who were so far deceived by his sys-  
tem of bookkeeping as to certify that the debt  
of the city was to be rapidly extinguished at a  
time when it was growing at the rate of  
\$30,000,000 a year; and the hard-headed busi-  
ness men of New-York are probably not ambi-  
tious of repeating that performance. A ver-  
dict now from a delegation of the Chamber of  
Commerce might perhaps be more fortunate  
in disclosing the actual state of the finances;  
but it would not be more successful in com-  
manding public confidence.

The duty of the city authorities is a very  
plain one. They must throw open their books  
to the whole people by a frank publication of  
the Controller's accounts, and invite the freest  
criticism upon every entry. If then the people  
cannot make up their minds whether the city  
and county finances have been honestly ad-  
ministered, the people, and not Mayor Hall or  
Controller Connolly, must appoint a committee  
of investigation. In a criminal trial, as this  
would be, the accused is never allowed the  
privilege of selecting the jury and preparing  
the evidence. No, gentlemen; give us your  
accounts first. If a committee of investigation  
should be necessary to show what the accounts  
mean, you will permit the people, if you please,  
to call for it.

## MILITARY ATTACHES.

The office of Military Attaché of Legation  
has always been considered that of a privileged  
spy in time of peace, and has usually been  
given to officers of some judgment and dis-  
cretion. If the place is worth retaining, it  
should certainly be reserved exclusively for  
officers of great acumen and prudence, men  
able to see at a glance the bearing and  
significance of all military movements and  
preparations, and incapable of misleading the  
Home Government by either exaggeration or  
neglect. There seem to be a few people in  
England who appreciate the importance of  
having a proper person in this position, and  
these are beginning to worry the Government  
somewhat on account of a recent appointment  
to the Legation of St. Petersburg. This is,  
with perhaps one exception, the most important  
post within the circle of British diplomacy. It  
is scarcely inferior in significance even to the  
Berlin Embassy, for the Eastern question is to  
English politics a more immediate and press-  
ing problem than any to be debated at present  
with the North German Cabinet. Besides, there  
are a thousand channels through which intelli-  
gence in regard to military preparations in  
Paris, or in Berlin, or Vienna would be instantly  
communicated, if not to Downing Street, at least  
to the New-York and London papers, so that  
Her Majesty's Ministers would not be long in  
the dark in regard to them. But armies can  
be levied and moved; roads can be built; vast  
quantities of supplies can be stored up along  
the Euxine, and in the desolate sweeps of  
country that border the Volga, and only a  
confused rumor of all this reaches the cities  
of the West. It should be the duty of the  
Military Attaché at St. Petersburg to gain the  
earliest intelligence of every movement, and  
to weigh with cool discretion the true value of  
every act of the Russian Department of War.  
To fulfill this difficult and delicate function,  
the English Government, which is continually  
held up to us as a model in its system of  
appointments and office-tenure, has just named  
one Lieut. Wellesley of the Coldstream  
Guards, a young man entirely without expe-  
rience, one who has given no evidences of  
capacity except as a waltzer and a man about  
town, whose sole qualification, so far as known,  
is that he is the son of Lord Cowley, and col-  
laterally related to the Duke of Wellington.  
The appointment has occasioned a perceptible  
ripple of disgust among people who read news-  
papers, and especially among the young gen-  
tlemen of Mr. Wellesley's class who wanted  
the place themselves.

It may, however, be seriously questioned  
whether the reports of a Military Attaché who  
should even be gifted with omniscience, would  
be of any especial value, if opposed to the  
prejudices of the Foreign Office and the Home  
Cabinet for the time being. There was never  
a graver need of capable and honest military  
observers attached to foreign missions than  
that which France experienced last year. The  
intentions of the Prussian Government and its  
state of military preparation—the purposes and  
the condition of the secondary States—were  
matters involving the life and death of the  
Napoleonic dynasty. As if by a special dis-  
pensation of that Providence which, as we are  
told on the rim of the Louis-d'or, *protège la  
France*, one of the newest and coolest heads in  
the French army was stationed at Berlin as  
Military Attaché to the French Legation,  
during the busy years of organization which  
intervened between the victory of Sedan and  
the Watch on the Rhine. This was Baron  
Stoffel, Colonel of Artillery, and his letters,  
just now collected and published in a volume,  
form the most remarkable passage of Cassan-  
dra prophecy ever seen in history. During all  
these four years he saw everything that was  
going on in Germany. Repeatedly he warned  
the Imperial Government of the perfect organi-  
zation and the tireless industry which was mak-  
ing the Prussian army the greatest in Europe.  
His eyes were open also to the symptoms  
of that movement toward national unity which  
was welding the German people into one na-  
tion. When we now read what he wrote, his  
inference is irresistible that his letters must  
have been pigeon-holed without further atten-  
tion. We know too well, from other sources,  
how impatient Louis Bonaparte always showed  
himself to any honest or truthful criticisms or  
warnings. Marshal Niel was too old to ap-  
preciate the new state of things that had sud-  
denly arisen in Europe since he was gray-  
headed, and Lebauf was nothing but an over-  
fed and arrogant rat of the Palace. They

doubtless thought Col. Stoffel a great bore  
with his endless letters from Berlin of warn-  
ings and expostulations. They were more an-  
xious to find a cause for war than to pre-  
pare for it; and when at last the pitiful pretext of  
the Hohenzollern candidature was seized upon,  
the Emperor merely asked Lebauf if he was  
ready. "Arch-ready" replied the ridiculous  
courtier, and the chaotic army was marched  
out to destruction amid the insane rejoicing  
of Paris.

The English may take this consolation to  
themselves in the recent appointment. If  
Col. Stoffel's admirable letters did not go to  
France, it is probable that Mr. Wellesley will  
find it difficult to be silly enough to injure  
England.

The strongest and most applicable effort to im-